

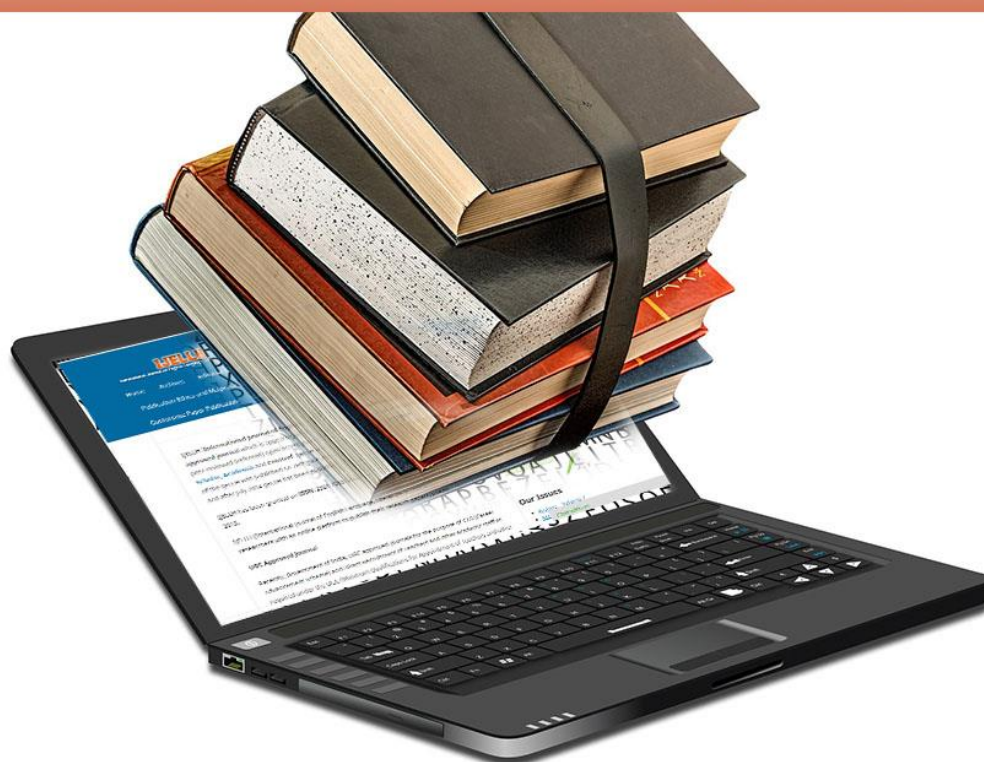
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Resemblances and discrepancies between Sylvia Chidi's "*Pollution*"
and "*Environmental pollution*"

Abstract

Literature is the universal replication of life .“Poetry is at bottom , a criticism of life” says Matthew Arnold . Annexing to his point Sylvia Chidi’s poems ‘*Pollution*’ and ‘*Environmental pollution*’ are merely criticisms of how human beings blemish the mother earth solipsistically . This article will stage the similarities and differences between these two poems . Nature sacrifices itself for human needs and in turn is served with toxic pollutants , this fact is elegantly portrayed in the form of poem . Eventhough these two poems carry the same theme there are mild traits that are alike and contrast . It also deals with the theory of ecocriticism which is employed in both these poems . Apart from being a literary piece , it tries to safeguard the readers through a instructive piece of art .

Keywords : selfishness, industries, interrogations, empathy .

Lovinia Sylvia Chidi is a Nigerian and German poet born in the year 1971 and has written more than four hundred poems . she is also a renowned chess player . The contemporary writer converted her social interest into words in these poems. These works clearly mounted her empathy on nature to public view delightfully.

Pollution is the contamination of natural resources which is caused by unwanted deeds of human beings for their selfish demands . It is considered as the premier crisis in this coexistent world of chaos . It can take several forms which can be analysed into various kinds such as air pollution , water pollution , light pollution , littering , soil contamination , radioactive contamination , thermal pollution and visual pollution.

The poem “Pollution” gives rise to several questions to resolve the complications which are results of pollution . She questions the readers whether it is ethical to fulfil personal needs and get ready for the societal life without being considerate . The societal life comprises plenty of rivers and clouds that are tainted she says . The food that are wasted clog the valleys turning it to paste .

Sylvia Chidi then calls the world a “*institution*” which shelters amass of environmental pollution which means that the world is full of pollution , here comes a criticism which states that the current generation has taken a call to be self-centered without giving space to thoughts of preserving the globe for forthcoming generations.

Poet regrets for purchasing fistful of electronic gadgets that induces the industries that manufacture those gadgets to yield abundant number of products . Also she exclaims that environmental pollution is at the seat of earth in this present scenario . Chidi who always concerns about nature empathizes for living beings like forests that are dying , wildlife that is sobbing , fishes that are pegging out and the earth that is sougning.

The poem is concluded by repetition of the first stanza that interrogates readers to discover whether the selfish deeds of human being are right . Further there are two questions

to know where there is a tactic to unravel the knots that are the barriers to control pollution in this world filled with excessive trashes and lustrous minds . She declines this piece of art by blaming the industries that plays gags on earth.

The subsequent poem “Environmental pollution” is baselined with a concise definition of environmental pollution as follows

“Environmental pollution

Is a collision of masses of waste particles ”

It is not descended with a definition , further the poet urges the readers for immediate action to shut down pollution . Besides being a poet the author puts her legs into the shoes of a nature lover and is dejected imagining a time when all the rainforests will turn into infertile lands and the rivers will be imperialized by plagues .

Adjoining to these points she suggests the readers to plant a tree nearby every home to govern the toxic junks that are released into the water bodies and atmosphere which is utilized universally . Chidi shrieks for help stating that all technological elevations has its cons like smoke , smog and waste that mix with carbon dioxide . Farther locomoting to the results of pollution the poet cautions the readers that the toxic chemicals released by human being is depleting the level of fresh water .

Again she pleads for help to discover the paths that leads to a solution that stabilizes and controls this kind of pollution . The poem is declined by expressing the aftermath effects that will lead to death . Her care for nature is shown in her last few lines , she warns human being that if this polluted air is inhaled further which is full of contamination then all the living things will be ruined .

There are several resemblances between these two poems . In both poems the author strives to extract solutions that would assist the world to revert from pollution . There are few unresolved questions that are left unanswered in the hands of readers . To emulate to each other

the poet speaks about the role of human beings , industries and technological advancements in making the earth to lose its sacredness . There is obviously a major role for human in deconstructing the nature in a motive of modernizing the world .

“And I for one am guilty

For buying the hundreds of electronic gadgets”

There is a pinch of guilt in author’s words mentioned below which is extracted from her poem that makes her regret for purchasing the gadgets that is one of the reason that lets in the parasites that suck the wealth of nature . Another similar trait is that in both the cases Chidi empathizes on nature and even blames herself for being self-centered .

In “Pollution” Sylvia Chidi almost covered ultimate number of types of pollution mentioned previously . She speaks about air pollution when she mentions tainted clouds , water pollution when she implies the death of fishes , visual pollution when she denotes the purchase and vast production of electronic gadgets and also gives stress to deforestation when she speaks about the demise of forest .

“ The forests are dying

Wildlife is crying

Millions of fishes are dying

Mother earth is sighing”

When “Pollution” dealt with all kinds of exploitation in nature , “Environmental pollution” deals especially with the exploitation of natural resources such as air , soil and water due to the release of chemical wastes in it . Corresponding to this fact Chidi’s poem “Environmental pollution” speaks more about the pollution that is caused due to the excessive release of chemical wastes that intoxicates the earth in various manners.

“Smoke , smog and waste is mixing with carbon
dioxide

Everyday toxic chemicals we are releasing

And fresh water reserves are decreasing”

These lines extracted from her latter poem are instances that prove that the poem prominently concerns with the wastes that are dumped in the nature unlike “Pollution” that falters with all kinds of taints. This is the major contradictory factor between these two works

The only difference one could encounter while reading this poem is that the poem “*Pollution*” is more of *suggestions and questions* whereas the poem “*Environmental pollution*” is more of facts *and precautions* .

The theory of *ecocriticism* can be applied both on these two poems and also in this article. As per *Wikipedia*

“Ecocriticism is the study of literature and the environment from an interdisciplinary point of view , where literature scholars analyse texts that illustrate environmental concerns and examine the various ways literature treats the subject of nature. ”

William H Rueckert in his article in his work “Literature and Ecology : An Experiment in Ecocriticism” published in the year 1978 used the term ecocriticism for the first time . Ecocriticism is a technique that is widely used by several other authors . By using this technique numerous authors play their vital role in protecting the nature and contribute to the conservation movement which was much popular from 1970’s to 1990’s . The same is employed by Chidi in these two poems.

Peter Barry in his work “*Beginning theory*” discusses how nature and linguistics travel in a linear plain . Here the author talks about the ways in which this pollution can be controlled and moving ahead she also requests the readers to think more about it which abides to the criteria of ecocriticism . As a whole the poet’s motive is these two works are same but the facts are portrayed in effective ways to emphasize the aftermath of this contemporary world filled with pollution.

Both the poems are connotative as it suggests prismatic ideas that outlet the adverse effects of neglecting pollution as trivial issue . The poet utilizes colloquial diction and tone as she finds using this pattern will assist her to reach the reader's mind to take a call to protect the nature as she has stepped forward in the same way .

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